

# Ukraine – Field Update

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Ten days after we returned home from Ukraine and two weeks after the start of the war, we would like to update you on what is happening with us, Tanya and Bogdan, as well as our friends in Ukraine.

We would also like to inform you about the different ways in which our partners in Romania, Poland, and Moldova help Ukrainian refugees in their countries.

The escape from the war turned out to be a turning point in our lives. Ever since we returned, we have been thinking about how to help the Ukrainian refugees who are flooding Europe. We talk daily with Mikhail and Vitaly in Ukraine and correspond with our Romania, Poland, and Moldova partners.

Tanya and Bogdan, refugees who travelled with us from Ukraine, have already settled in at our office in Sofia. They managed to obtain refugee status and are now entitled to health care, school and work. Very soon, we will officially hire Tanya. For now, Bogdan is studying alone with the help of his mother, but very soon, we will enroll him in school. He enjoys the snow that has been falling almost constantly since they came. He always finds a way to go outside and play in the snow.

This Sunday, I traveled to Romania, where he met Anya, the youngest daughter of ministry partners in Ukraine's Director, Mikhail. After a week of torturous stay at the office in Kyiv with her father and mother, she decided to leave the country and come to us. After a very long, emotional, and exhausting journey, Anya is finally in a safe place. However, she still often cries for her relatives, whom she left in Ukraine, and feels guilty for not sharing this hardship. Anya is 29 years old, single, and a doctor. Now she lives with Tanya and Bogdan in the office, and they both support and comfort each other. Our colleagues are trying hard to make them feel welcome – especially Sergei, a Ukrainian whose parents emigrated to Bulgaria when he was only three years old. Anya has also started the procedure for obtaining refugee status and has already arranged interviews for work in several hospitals.

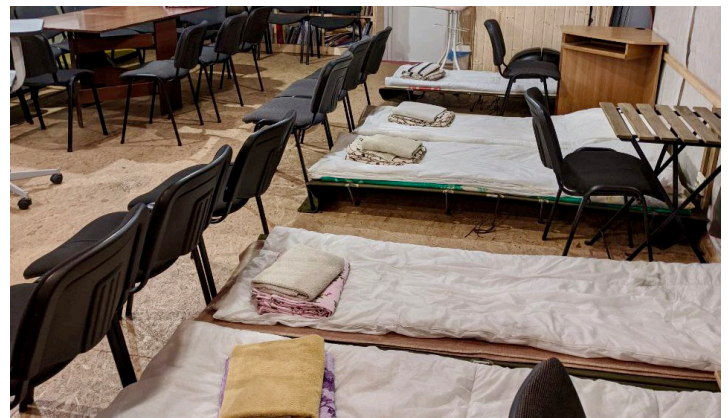


Tanya and Anya safely in Bulgaria

Mikhail is still in Kyiv. After doing everything possible to ensure the security of the Ukraine office, he joined the territorial defence of the city (people who stay at the checkpoints and check the documents of passers-by). All his relatives and friends are trying to persuade him to leave Kyiv, but their efforts have been unsuccessful so far. His son Victor is also in the city and is already part of the Ukrainian army. His wife and children left the city, but they messed up the buses and ended up not where they wanted. Now they are trying to find a way to move to a safe place, but this is difficult because Victor's wife is troubled and confused and has difficulties making decisions. Mikhail's eldest son, Tim, is in Hungary with his wife and three children, and his second daughter and her family are in a safe place in western Ukraine.

Vitaly, another Ukrainian ministry partner, continues to receive refugees at his mission center near Cherkasy. Together they support and serve each other. Fifteen families with children arrived in the village and were accommodated in the centre and the homes of the believers.

Vitaly regularly visits the checkpoints to raise the spirit and morale of the soldiers. With some of the refugees in his center, they bring them food, coffee, and Scripture materials. Vitaly has organized a self-defence group that gives night shifts to protect the centre as there is no military in his village.





In Moldova, our ministry partner Evgeni is already helping the refugees in 5 locations. Four of them are close to the border with Ukraine, and the other one is the office of our Moldovan ministry partner in Chisinau, where he hosts those who need accommodation. Our partner in Moldova provides funds for gasoline to the volunteers who take refugees from the border and drive them to the refugee center and from the refugee center to the Romanian border. Volunteers also prepare food for the refugees and buy medicines or diapers and food for the babies. Evgeni also gives Scripture materials to the volunteers who work with the refugees.



Our ministry partner in Romania is printing 30,000 copies of John Gospel, and 10,000 New Testaments in the Ukrainian language. Some of the Romanian ministry partners provide help to the refugees. Viorel in North Romania takes care of 350 people. Being close to the Ukrainian border, they are not staying there more than 2-3 days until they leave for the next destination.







Nelu, a local champion in Bucharest has been hosting 40 people for more than ten days now, and his brother George - 30 people.



So far, 1.2 million Ukrainians have reached Poland in the last two weeks. Our ministry partner in Poland has allocated \$10,000 to help Ukrainian refugees in Poland. They have purchased essential hygiene products for children and women, drinks and energy bars. They also financially supported several churches in the border area, which are heavily involved in helping refugees. These churches are small and don't have large budgets. With another mission organization from England, our ministry partner in Poland printed New Testaments and the Gospel of John in Ukrainian.

They also translated some of their Project Philip materials (Discover Life, Hope in the Midst of Grief and Hope in the Midst of Life's Pain) into Ukrainian and want to print them.

We will try our best to keep you updated on the situation in our region.

**Prayer needs:**

- Please pray that this devastating war will soon end and no more innocent people will die or have to start their life from the beginning.
- Please pray that more and more people will get united in their efforts to help Ukraine and that God will stop all those with bad intentions who are using this as an opportunity to enrich themselves. (For example there are already many reports of young Ukrainian women kidnapped for prostitution)
- Please pray that God will use this situation to touch the hearts of many and will give them salvation.
- Please pray that God will strengthen his Church in this time of great need for the Gospel and will also unite His Church in their efforts to serve those in need.
- Please pray for our partners who are still in Ukraine and whose lives are in danger.